

IF YOU LOOK AT THE WORLD, YOU'LL
BE DISTRESSED. IF YOU LOOK
WITHIN, YOU'LL BE DEPRESSED.

*If you look at God
you'll be at rest.*

—
= CORRIE TEN BOOM =


WEEK 2

FAITH LEADS TO VICTORY

How many times have you started out strong and given up when the going got tough? How many times have you backed down from a challenge because you didn't have faith that God would carry you through? How many times have you given up on God because He didn't answer your prayers as quickly as you expected Him to? How many times have you given up on praying for someone's salvation, because you didn't see change? How many times have you been afraid of the future because you didn't know what the next day would bring?

You see, God *does* answer prayer. But the question is, does He answer in *His time* or *ours*? Does He do things *our way* or *His*? Will we trust Him when our plans fall apart? Will we step out in faith when the next step is unknown?

Think about this for a minute: it wasn't raining when Noah started building the ark, and there certainly wasn't a flood that day. Some say it took Noah 120 years to build the ark, others argue that it was closer to 100 based on his age. Regardless of which argument is right, we can all agree that it took a lifetime of patience, and a boatload of faith. Year after year he continued his work believing that God would be true to His Word. Many, if not most of us, would have given up after a while when we saw that God was taking His time. Just like anything else, we want things done our way, in our time.

God doesn't always make sense. His ways are foolish to the unfaithful, but to the faithful His wisdom runs deep. His grace bewilders the ungrateful. His love confuses the unloving. His power confounds the self-righteous. His humility baffles the proud.

God uses the small, the flawed, and the few to further the gospel, so that through our weakness His grace abounds all the more. A young shepherd boy slays a giant, not because he is mighty, but because the God working and moving within David is bigger than any force on this earth. He pares down an army before sending them on to the battle, so that He might display His strength and His power. He leads an army to victory, through obedience to His Word, so that all might see the supremacy of their God.

Forty years from now, when you look back on your life, will you be able to say, "I let go, and let God?" Or could it be that you'll wish you had trusted Him more? Each and every day we're given an opportunity to let go of the reins, and hand our lives over to God. Maybe you gave your life to God when you were 12 years old at summer camp, and maybe you meant every word that you said. But here's the thing; every day is another opportunity to solidify that vow. Every

uncertainty, every fear, and every heartache, comes with a choice--will I trust in His wisdom or lean on my own?

As you're reading this week, take time to focus on faith one day and God's provision the next. What do you learn about each? Use the resources provided at the beginning of this study guide to dig deep.



How can I apply this to my life?

SATURDAY

Look up Matthew Henry’s Commentary (or your personal favorite) online to get an in-depth perspective on yesterday’s reading.

What have you learned about God’s provision?
